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years, that it be done under your name and under your bill, and I would still like to see that as a goal this session. You obviously must...you had some discussion and had to change your bill, but that doesn't mean other members of the Education Committee may not amend the bill and we can continue this discussion. I want you to know that that's what's being drafted at this point. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Kiel, on the amendment.

SENATOR KIEL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise in support of Senator Stuhr's amendment to this bill, and I'm very, very pleased to see that it incorporates my LB 1385 which was to create the Vocational Technical Education Study Committee, and this has changed names a little bit, but what it does is very similar. We have a need in the state of Nebraska to recognize what is going to be the requirements as far as this kind of education in the future. We are way, way behind here and I think Senator Stuhr has mentioned this and Senator Stuhr has worked for four years now to try to get this body and various and sundry related educational groups and other groups to recognize this very deep need that we have for this kind of education in the state of Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Labor has indicated that of the occupations in Nebraska that are anticipating significant employment growth are auto body and related repairs, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, pipe fitters, steam fitters, all of which are going to be experiencing very significant increases in growth. We don't have the people to fill those jobs. In Omaha, I think the average age of a plumber right now is like 55 or 57 which makes Senator Lynch a spring chicken, you know. He's going to have to work for the next 40 years because we don't have plumbers to fill the need. We...our kids receive a good education in our schools, but not every high school graduate goes on to college. A lot of them enter the work force and a lot of them are unskilled. The minimum wage jobs are often the only opportunity they have. This kind of training gives them the skills allowing them to find more than a job, but a very, very well-paying career. According to U.S. Department of Education, vocational education is evolving into a multipurpose enterprise that seeks to impart, not only occupational skills to